

NEWS RELEASE

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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 8, 2005, a Federal Grand Jury sitting in Benton returned an indictment charging 7 individuals with conspiring to manufacture, distribute, and possess with intent to distribute over 500 grams of methamphetamine in Saline County in Illinois, and elsewhere in the United States. Charged in the single count indictment are: **JASON E. BOULDS**, age 28 of Harrisburg, Illinois; **DOROTHY J. AUD**, age 35 of Equality, Illinois; **JUSTIN R. CASTEEL**, age 21 of Harrisburg, Illinois; **WAYNE A. COSEBOON**, age 25 of Eldorado, Illinois; **GARY W. FARMER**, age 22 of Harrisburg, Illinois; **ELVIS A. HARDIN**, age 25 of Harrisburg, Illinois; and **DAVID E. McSPARIN**, age 28 of Harrisburg, Illinois. The indictment alleges the offense occurred between January 2000 and continued up to the date of the indictment.

An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The charges carry a penalty of from 10 years to Life imprisonment, up to a \$4 million fine, and a term of at least 5 years' supervised release to follow incarceration.

BOULDS, AUD, FARMER, HARDIN, and McSPARIN appeared in United States District Court in Benton today to be arraigned on the charges. AUD, FARMER, and HARDIN were remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal pending individual detention hearings which are set for Tuesday, February 15, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. at the Benton Federal Courthouse. BOULDS and McSPARIN waived their right to a detention hearing and were remanded to custody pending further proceedings in the case. CASTEEL and COSEBOON will be arraigned on a future date.

Information for the indictment was obtained through the cooperative efforts of the Southern Illinois Drug Task Force, the Illinois State Police, the Multi-Agency Drug Enforcement (MADE) Unit comprised of the Saline County Sheriff's Department and the Saline County Housing Authority, the Harrisburg Police Department, the Saline County State's Attorney's Office, the United States Attorney's Office, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James M. Cutchin.